On April 29, Prince William and his long time girlfriend, Catherine “Kate” Middleton, were married at Westminster Abbey in front of nearly 2,000 guests.

Those invited included world leaders, members of the royal family, and friends of both the bride and groom. Approximately one million people crowded the streets of London to witness the event and another two billion viewed the wedding on television.

The day went off without a hitch, beginning at exactly 11 a.m. as Kate Middleton emerged from her car in front of Westminster Abbey.

Unlike previous royal brides who arrived in stately royal carriages, Kate chose to arrive in a car and later leave in a carriage to represent her transition from a commoner to a princess.

The dress, designed by Sarah Burton at Alexander McQueen, turned out to be the perfect blend of both modern and traditional styles and was well received by critics. The gown had a structured and flattering bodice, floral, laced sleeves, and a train that stretched nearly nine feet.

Kate had carefully thought out the design of the dress with Sarah Burton and it was her goal to combine tradition, modernity, and her own personal style into the perfect gown.

Prince William wore a scarlet red Irish Guard uniform, polished and arranged to perfection.

As Kate reached the altar in Westminster Abbey that morning, William leaned over and whispered, “You look absolutely beautiful,” tugging on the heartstrings of viewers everywhere. Sophomore Rachel Brinson said this moment was one of her favorite parts of the whole day.

“Kate looked absolutely stunning in her dress, and the church was decorated so beautifully. When she finally got to the altar and Will whispered that to her, I just started crying. It was perfect,” Brinson said.

The ceremony lasted about an hour, and included vows from William and Kate, a reading from Kate’s brother, James, and many songs performed by the Westminster Abbey Boys’ Choir, chosen by the couple themselves.

Sophomore Sarah Kalczynski enjoyed the ceremony itself the most because of the many fashions on display in the abbey.

“I loved seeing the royalty arrive, with their British style and unique hats. I also really liked James’ speech. He was a good speaker and the reading was very relevant to William and Kate’s lives,” Kalczynski said.

William and his new bride then rode to Buckingham palace in a carriage, followed by their families and members of the wedding party.

As William and Catherine readied themselves inside, crowds of nearly one million people surged to the front gates of Buckingham palace, waiting for the moment when the couple would appear on the balcony.

Finally, the future king and queen of England emerged from the palace and stepped onto the balcony. The crowd erupted into deafening cheers, putting broad smiles on the faces of the new couple.

William and Catherine shared not one, but two kisses on the balcony, pleasing viewers in England and around the world. The Royal Air Force then performed the ceremonial flyby with seven WWII planes from the Battle of Britain, the perfect ending to a fairytale day.

Sophomore Megan Deschenes said the most memorable part of the day was not the ceremony, but the balcony scene that followed.

“I loved when they kissed twice instead of once because that has never been done before, but the best part was the little bridesmaid on the balcony who was holding her hands over her ears the whole time,” Deschenes said.

Sophomore Wilson Brown, one of the few guys who watched the historical event, enjoyed the balcony scene for different reasons than many female viewers.

“My favorite part was when the old planes flew over and it was cool to see how many people gathered in front of Buckingham palace after the wedding. It was also really interesting that people from all over the world were watching the same event that day,” Brown said.

The couple received their first wedding gift from the Queen that day, who gave them the new titles: The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge.